

REMARKS

Claims 13-20 were previously pending. Independent claims 13 and 17 are currently amended. Claims 14-16 and 18-20 are unchanged.

Pages 9-10 of the February 24, 2003 Office Action states that the rejections to the claims were maintained for two reasons: 1) Applicants did not include minimum seal temperature limitations in the claims; and 2) Applicants did not submit evidence demonstrating that the high stereo-regularity of the cavitated core layer of the present invention is patentable over the prior art Keller reference which teaches a cavitated core layer containing a modifier to reduce the crystallinity of the polypropylene. Applicants are submitting herewith the Migliorini Declaration which provides evidence of the lower seal temperature of the films of the present invention and evidence that the high stereo-regularity of the cavitated core layer of the present invention has a high crystallinity.

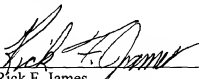
The Migliorini Declaration explains at paragraphs 7-9 that the films of the present invention include an outer layer having an ethylene-propylene-butylene ("EPB") terpolymer with a DSC melting point of about 122.5°C. Comparative test results show that these films have a surprisingly low minimum seal temperature when compared to similar films which have a EPB terpolymer with a DSC melting point of about 130°C in the outer layer. (See paragraph 8 of the Migliorini Declaration.) Applicants have amended Claims 13 and 17 to include the limitation that the EPB terpolymer in the bottom skin layer has a DSC melting point of about 122.5°C.

The Migliorini Declaration also provides evidence that the high stereo-regularity of the cavitated core layer in the claims is a highly crystalline polymer structure. At paragraphs 10-12 of the declaration, Mr. Migliorini states that "High crystallinity is inherent in a polypropylene homopolymer of high stereo-regularity." Support for this statement is offered by citations from reference books which are copied in Exhibits 3 and 4 of the Migliorini Declaration. Thus, the high stereo-regularity of the polypropylene homopolymer core layer of the present invention is distinguishable from the Keller reference which teaches a cavitated core layer containing a modifier to reduce the crystallinity of the polypropylene.

Applicants respectfully submit that they have overcome the two bases identified by the Examiner in the February 24, 2003 final Office Action for rejecting the claims and, therefore, request that the rejections be withdrawn. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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